

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10546 131849Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, XA

SUBJECT: SHARP BRITISH TUC AND LABOR PARTY

REACTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN SHOOTINGS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BRITISH TUC AND THE BRITISH  
LABOR PARTY REACTED VERY SHARPLY TO THE SHOOTINGS OF  
ELEVEN BLACKS AT THE WESTERN DEEP LEVEL MINE OF ANGLO-AMERICA.  
END SUMMARY

2. LEN MUAARY, THE NEW GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 10546 131849Z

BRITISH TUC, STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE SHOOTINGS. HE  
SAID THAT THE "TUC REGISTERS THEIR STRONGEST POSSIBLE

PROTEST AT THIS OUTRAGE, AND CONDEMS THE INTERVENTION OF ARMED POLICE IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY." MURRAY'S STATEMENT CHARGED THAT THE SHOOTINGS WERE A "DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE OPPRESSIVE ATTITUDE ADMINISTERED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TOWARD THE WORKING PEOPLE AND UNDERLINES THE URGENT NEED IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR REPRESENTATIVE CHANNELS TO WHICH ALL WORKERS CAN FREELY EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS..."

3. THIS INCIDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE BRITISH TUC IS PREPARING TO SEND A DELEGATION ON OCTOBER 6-20 TO SOUTH AFRICA TO INVESTIGATE THE TRADE

UNION SITUATION THERE AND IN PARTICULAR TO EXAMINE WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THE VERY LOW WAGE STRUCTURE IN THAT COUNTRY.

4. THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE VICTOR FEATHER, THE F THER#

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUC, JACK JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, DAN MCGARVEY OF THE BOILERMAKERS' UNION, CYRIL PLANT OF THE INLAND REVENUE STAFF FEDERATION (ALSO BRITISH ILO WORKER REPRESENTATIVE), AND ALUN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT. THE SENDING OF THIS DELEGATION WAS APPROVED BY THE TUC CONGRESS IN BLACKPOOL SEPTEMBER 3-7. (A MINORITY AT THE CONGRESS WERE OPPOSED TO SENDING ANY DELEGATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN SOUTH AFRICA AS RECOGNITION BY THE TUC OF THEIR REGIME). THE BRITISH TUC DELEGATION IS NOW EXPECTED TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE CONDITIONS WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE GOLD MINE SHOOTING BUT THEY ALSO WILL EXAMINE REPORTS EARLIER IN THE YEAR THE MAJORITY OF AFRICANS EMPLOYED BY MOST BRITISH FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE EARNING WAGES AT THE LEVEL OF SUBSISTANCE OR LOWER.

5. REACTION IN THE LABOR PARTY WAS EQUALLY PROMPT AND SHARP. IVOR RICHARD, FRONTBENCH LABOR SPOKESMAN ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 10546 131849Z

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONDEMNED THE SHOOTINGS AS "YET ANOTHER BLOT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S REPUTATION," AND LABOR MPS JOAN LESTER AND FRANK JUDD WERE AMONG THOSE WHO PICKETED AFRICA HOUSE YESTERDAY. (LESTER AND JUDD WERE TWO OF THE MOST PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PORTUGUESE PREMIER CAETANO'S VISIT HERE IN JULY). LABOR PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY RON HAYWARD DENOUNCED THE SHOOTINGS AS "VICIOUS MURDERS" AND CALLED ON THE BRITISH DIRECTORS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM

THE COMPOUND LABOR SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE SHARP REACTIONS OF THE TUC  
AND LABOR PARTY, PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE MINE SHOOTINGS  
HAS BEEN LESS THAN WOULD BE NORMALLY EXPECTED. THE  
DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE AND THE CONTINUED WAVE  
OF BOMBINGS IN ENGLAND HAVE TENDED TO DOMINATE THE  
NEWS IN RECENT DAYS.

SOHM

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